# STOP MALARIA – ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY MALARIA PREVENTION IN TOLAY

## Project

In Gibhe Valley in Tolay, the burden of malaria is particularly great and is one of the main reasons for the high child mortality rate here. The malaria control project in Ethiopia follows the same principles that were developed and maximised in pilot projects in Kenya (Malindi and Nyabondo).
The population is sensitised to the danger presented by malaria-transmitting mosquitoes on **malaria information days. Breeding sites** (e.g. pools) are dried out in community work, and blocked water channels are cleared so that water may flow again. Where this is not possible, stagnant bodies of water are treated with an **environmentally safe bacteria** (Bti, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*). Training of **mosquito scouts** from the local population helps to endure the long-term success of the project.

**Project number:**
BV HH-03

**Project active since:**
2007

**Project duration:**
until December 2009

**Budget for 2009:**
76'326 USD

**Project coordinator:**
John Githure, Human Health Division Leader *icipe*

**Program responsibility:**
Verena Albertin

## Relevance

A considerable number of the inhabitants of Tolay moved from the densely-populated, drought-threatened highlands to the sparsely-populated fertile lowlands of Ethiopia, where **sleeping sickness** and **malaria** are rife: both of these diseases are transmitted by insects. The problem of sleeping sickness for humans and animals has been tackled with integrated methods in a previous project supported by Biovision (see completed projects AH-02 *Tsetse Rollback Initiative Ethiopia)*. The Ethiopian malaria project builds on this and makes use of synergies and ties in malaria control with the activities of tsetse fly control.
The pilot project in Ethiopia demonstrates to the population and central decision makers how malaria can be contained in an ecological and cost-effective way.

*Stagnant water is a threat. It provides an ideal breeding site for malaria mosquitoes.*

*Children are particularly at risk. For this reason, mosquito nets are distributed as a priority to families with small children.*

## Development Goal

Sustainable improvement of the health of the population of Tolay through environmentally friendly malaria control.

## Beneficiaries

12'000 inhabitants of the project area (5000 in Wayu, 5000 in Biftu Beri plus 2000 conscripts in the nearby military base) profit from improved health due to a reduction in cases of malaria.

## Goals

1. At least 12 **Mosquito-Scouts** and 4 co-workers from the local health establishments are trained in the independent application and further dissemination of environmentally friendly malaria control
2. **Sensitisation and education** of local groups (at least 300 members) on the relation between mosquitoes and malaria, as well as guidance on **environmental management** and **correct use of bed nets**
3. The provision of an updated synopsis and **documentation on efficiency and effectiveness of the mosquito control methods** (meteorological data, information on mosquito populations, cases of malaria, etc.) in order to introduce decision makers to the control methods and convince them of their efficacy.


*Tolay lies in Gibhe Valley in the regional state of Oromiya.*

## Partner Organisations

International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology *icipe* www.icipe.org; Ethiopian Ministry of Health; Addis Ababa University Institute of Pathobiology; Jimma University; Biofarm Consortium www.bc.tsetse.googlepages.com

## Sustainability

Sustainability calls for a holistic vision: healthy people, animals and plants in a healthy environment. (4x Health, 4-H Strategy). Every project supported by Biovision effects considerable improvements in at least one of the four health areas. The key to effectively replicating the success of the project is the availability of specific information on the methods applied and the results achieved. With this approach and its ‚helix of effects', living conditions are improved and the poverty of the people is gradually overcome while the environment is protected.


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